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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/489,561	01/21/2000	William J. Baer	STL000025US1	5987

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN BA, HOANG VU A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2122

20

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/489,561

Applicant(s)

BAER ET AL.

Examiner

Hoang-Vu A Nguyen-Ba

Art Unit

2122

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-8,13-17,21-26,28-32,36-41 and 43-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,5,12,18-20,27,33-35 and 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 16.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 1.17(e) has been timely paid, Applicants' submission of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 23, 2004, before the mailing date of the first Office action after the filing of the RCE under § 1.114, has been considered.

#### *Information Disclosure Statement*

2. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 23, 2004 have been considered.

#### *Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-2, 6-8, 13-15; 16-17, 21-26, 28-30; 31-32, 36-41, 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,006,242 to Poole et al. ("Poole").

#### **Claims 1, 16 and 31**

Poole discloses at least:

*for each level of the hierarchy, defining a target location for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level (see at least Figure 1, items 32, 44, 46, 48 and related discussion in the specification);*

*receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship (see at least Figure 1, item 34 and related discussion in the specification);*

*for each entity, determining its hierarchical level from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity (see at least Figure 1, items 36, 38, 40, 42 and related discussion in the specification); and*

*storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective target locations (see at least Figure 1, items 44, 46, 48 and related discussion in the specification).*

### **Claims 2, 17 and 32**

The rejections of base claims 1, 16 and 31 are incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising the steps of:*

*for hierarchical level, defining a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name (see at least Figure 4, items 119 and related discussion in the specification);*

*receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes (see at least Figure 4, item 121 and related discussion in the specification);*

*for each entity having an attribute, mapping the first name of the attribute to the second name of the attribute (see at least Figure 4, items 127, 129 and related discussion in the specification); and*

*storing the attribute in its target location under its second name (see at least Figure 4, item 131 and related discussion in the specification).*

**Claims 11, 26 and 41**

The rejections of base claims 1, 16, 31 and intervening claims 2, 17, 32, respectively are incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself* (see at least Figure 5, item 26 and related discussion in the specification).

**Claims 6, 9, 21, 24, 36, 39**

The rejection of base claims 1, 16 and 31 is incorporated. Poole further discloses *the step of assigning an identifier to each entity* (see at least Figure 5, items 26, e.g., entities 1-n; and related discussion in the specification).

**Claims 7, 10, 22, 25, 37 and 40**

The rejections of base claims 1, 16, 31 and intervening claims 6, 36 are incorporated. Poole further discloses *the step of storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location* (see at least Figure 5, item 26 and related discussion in the specification).

**Claims 8, 23 and 38**

The rejection of base claims 1, 16 and 31 is incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself* (see at least Figure 5, item 26 and related discussion in the specification).

**Claims 13, 28 and 43**

The rejection of base claims 1, 16 and 31 is incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein the data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its*

*entities* (see at least Figure 5, items 62, 64, 65 and related discussion in the specification).

#### **Claims 15, 30 and 45**

The rejections of base claims 1, 16, 31 and intervening claims 13, 28 and 43 are incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation* (see at least Figure 5, items 62, 64, 65 and related discussion in the specification).

#### **Claims 14, 29 and 44**

The rejection of base claims 1, 16 and 31 is incorporated. Poole further discloses *wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels* (see at least Figure 1, items 44, 46, 48, e.g., "Document X", "Document Y," "Document Z").

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 5, 20, 35, 3, 18, 33, 4, 19, 34, 12, 27, 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Antony Nguyen-Ba, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0103. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 6:15 – 3:45 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam, can be reached at (703) 305-4552.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Central Fax Number

(703) 872-9306

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hoa Nguyen Ba".

**ANTONY NGUYEN-BA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Art Unit 2122

April 13, 2004